

Recall

• **CARS**—American Motors Corp (AMC) has notified Esther Peterson, Special Assistant to the President for Consumer Affairs, and certain Gremlin car owners that it is recalling 3,000 4-cylinder 1977 Gremlins because some of the cars may have improper accelerator cables. A cable could stick when the accelerator pedal is fully depressed to the floor, and the engine would continue to operate at a fast speed even if the driver lets up on the pedal. This could occur without prior warning and could result in a crash.

What to do: Have your car inspected by an AMC dealer as soon as possible, and if you have an improper cable, the dealer will install a correct replacement without charge. In the meantime, do not press accelerator pedal to the floor until AMC dealer inspects and/or repairs the car. If the pedal sticks while driving, turn ignition key off immediately and guide car to the side of the road—and do not drive the car until it has been repaired. If you are unable to have your car repaired without charge or have other difficulties, call NHTSA's toll-free hotline (800-424-9393). Residents in Alaska, Hawaii and Washington, DC can call the hotline by dialing 202-426-0123 and paying for the call themselves.

The cars are being recalled in accordance with NHTSA's regulations. Special notifications of tire recalls and car defects are a joint effort by **Office of Consumer Affairs (OCA)** and NHTSA to reach more car owners—especially used car owners [CONSUMER NEWS: April 1, 1975].

Warning: Baseball bats

King Athletic Goods of Fairfield, NJ, in cooperation with **Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC)** is offering a kit to repair a possible defect on the "King Sport" aluminum baseball bat.

CPSC reports indicate that the rubber grips on these aluminum bats can become loose, worn, torn or otherwise damaged. According to CPSC, this creates a risk of injury because a bat in use may separate from a deteriorated grip and be propelled through the air, possibly striking someone. To prevent this, King Athletic is offering the repair kit free of charge. Only bats sold under the trade name of "King Sport" are subject to this repair.

Owners of such bats are asked to write to King Athletic Goods, 277 Fairfield Road, Fairfield, NJ, giving the model number, length and color of bat, dealer's name and address and the approximate date of purchase.

The appropriate repair kit will be sent to consumers as soon as possible. For more information consumers can call CPSC's toll-free hotline; 800-638-2666. Maryland residents call 800-492-2937.

consumer news

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
Office of Consumer Affairs

Vol. 7, No. 13, July 1, 1977

Tris

On June 23, a Federal judge said **Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC)** had acted illegally when it imposed its April 8 ban on the use of the flame-retardant Tris in children's sleepwear. (**National Cancer Institute** study showed that Tris caused cancer in test animals.)

The ruling is the result of a lawsuit brought by Springs Mills, a manufacturer of children's clothing. The company maintained that CPSC did not hold requested public hearings on the matter, and the judge said such hearings were required by law.

The judge's decision means that Tris is no longer banned, and stores do not have to refund to consumers the purchase price of unwashed Tris-treated garments. At **CONSUMER NEWS'** presstime, CPSC was expected to appeal the ruling, because it said its action in banning the chemical was legal. However, if CPSC does not appeal, the **Environmental Defense Fund**, a non-profit, public interest organization which petitioned CPSC to ban Tris in the first place, said it would ask that the ruling be delayed until the Fund can prepare an appeal.

Chevrolet engines—an update

Since **CONSUMER NEWS'** report (June 1) on alleged substitutions of Chevrolet engines in certain 1977 General Motors (GM) Oldsmobiles, we have learned that other GM cars (Buicks and Pontiacs) may also have Chevrolet engines substituted.

At the annual meeting of the National Association of Attorneys General the Consumer Protection Committee met and discussed lawsuits against GM for the alleged substitutions. Those in attendance agreed that GM's settlement offer of 8¢ per mile for those who turned in their cars was unacceptable, and the committee plans future meetings to discuss what would be acceptable.

Consumers who may be affected should call their state's Attorney General's office to find out if their state has brought suit against GM. **Federal Trade Commission (FTC)** in Cleveland, OH (216-522-4207) is continuing its investigation and welcomes reports from consumers who are having problems.

Subscription troubles?

CONSUMER NEWS is working with the **Government Printing Office (GPO)** to improve the system for processing subscriptions, renewals and address changes. If you've had trouble in any of these areas, please let us know by sending us your name, address and complete information on the mailing label (a copy of a mailing label is preferable), and a description of the problem. Correspondence should be addressed to Maggie Johnson, **CONSUMER NEWS**, 621 Reporters Bldg., Washington, DC 20201. We regret any inconvenience you may have experienced in the past, and we hope you will help us to eliminate these problems in the future.

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Date and page of the newsletter are given after each subject. "Home study courses Jun 15:3" means an item about home study courses appeared on page 3 of the June 15 issue of CONSUMER NEWS. Subjects that appeared in CONSUMER REGISTER or RATE REGISTER are designated by "CR" or "RR" before date and page number. "CR Feb 1:1" means page one of the Feb. 1 issue of CONSUMER REGISTER: "RR Apr 1:2" means page one of April 1 issue of RATE REGISTER.

Recalls, warnings and publications are listed only once—under main entries for "Recalls," "Warnings" and "Publications." Also, RATE REGISTER subjects are listed only once—under RATE REGISTER.

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CONSUMER NEWS is published the 1st and 15th of each month by the Office of Consumer Affairs, Health, Education and Welfare Dept., to report Federal Government programs for consumers. Use of funds for printing this publication through Sept. 30, 1979, approved by Office of Management and Budget. Authorization to reproduce any or all items is granted. Editorial address is CONSUMER NEWS, Office of Consumer Affairs, Health, Education and Welfare Dept., 621 Reporters Bldg., Washington, DC 20201; Marion Q. Ciaccio, Managing Editor (202-755-8830). Sold by Consumer Information Center, Pueblo, CO 81009; subscription \$4 a year, payable to "Supt. of Documents." Send address change to Supt. of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402.

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1976-210-992/48
DHEW PUBLICATION NO. (OS) 77-108

DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH, EDUCATION AND WELFARE
OFFICE OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20201

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